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Kernan Announces Grant for TBR USA, Inc. to Develop Recycled-Content Truck Cab

INDIANAPOLIS – If a new project being undertaken by Valparaiso's TBR USA, Inc. is successful, pickup trucks may soon sport cabs made from recycled plastics.

Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today that the Indiana Department of Commerce's Energy Policy Division awarded TBR USA, Inc. a \$100,000 Innovations Grant to develop a recycled-content truck cab.

"More and more consumers are seeking out environmentally responsible products," said Kernan, who serves as director of Commerce. "TBR USA's research could create a product that gives truck owners an option not currently available to them, and we're proud to support the company's efforts."

TBR USA, which opened its Valparaiso facility in 2001, manufactures truck cabs for Ford Motor Company's European divisions. The company will design and test a process of manufacturing an all-plastic pickup truck cab using a mixture of virgin feedstock and up to 50 percent recycled feedstock, initially from its own manufacturing scrap and eventually from post-consumer material.

Most pickup truck cabs are made of fiberglass and use glass windows. TBR proposes to use an all-plastic body and plastic-formed and coated windows, which means the entire product will not only be made from recycled content but will also be totally recyclable. The company will do extensive testing on the prototype product to ensure that it meets American and European safety and performance standards.

If the development process is successful, the company will begin production and include specific recycling instructions on the cab so that the material can make its way back to TBR USA. Up to 165,000 pounds of material is expected to be diverted in the first year of production through manufacturing alone.

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The Innovations Grant Program provides assistance to Indiana businesses undertaking a research, development or implementation project that promotes the economical use of secondary recycled materials or source reduction in manufacturing processes. Up to \$100,000 is available per applicant, not to exceed 50 percent of eligible project costs. Grants are awarded on a quarterly basis.

The Indiana Recycling Energy Development Board, which meets quarterly, reviews grant proposals and determines awards. The Energy Policy Division of the Indiana Department of Commerce administers the program. For more information on the Energy Policy Division's recycling programs, please contact Sarah Carney or Tiffany Sorge at 317.232.8940 or visit www.CommerceRecycles.in.gov.

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